

The Romulus News

JANUARY 10, 1997 – JANUARY 23, 1997

"the little paper"

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 12

Timely Tidbits ...

EDS Files Permit for Citrin Drive Site

Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc., has sent the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality its Act 451, Part 111 permit application for a hazardous wastewater treatment, storage, and deepwell disposal facility to be located at the company's Citrin Drive site. A copy of the application is on file at the Romulus Public Library (located at 11121 South Wayne Road, next to City Hall) for review by the public.

Bingo, Dinner Benefit Cymonne

The Friends of Cymonne Pyles are hosting a bingo night to raise money for the family of a Romulus eight-year-old who has a malignant brain tumor.

The event will be held at the Romulus Progressive Hall (located at 11580 Ozga) on Tuesday, January 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The "Friends" will also host a spaghetti dinner – to be held at Romulus High School (located at 9650 South Wayne Road) on Wednesday, January 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. – featuring a menu of spaghetti, salad, beverage, and dessert. Tickets are \$5 for adults/\$3.50 for children, and are available at all five Romulus elementary schools (Barth, Cory, Halecreek, Merriman, and Wick).

For more information about this worthy cause, and how you can make a further donation, please see the "Letters to the Editor" on page 2 of this issue.

Committee Needs You!

The Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee is already hard at work planning its first annual festival for September 1997. The goal of the group is to organize an event that local citizens can anticipate for many years to come. Anyone interested in making Romulus a more fulfilling place to live is encouraged to become involved. For information, call Susan Watts at 941-0476. □

Newly Reelected Pitoniak To Resign as Representative, Become Mayor of Taylor

By a unanimous vote, the Taylor City Council has chosen 22nd District (Romulus and Taylor) State Representative Gregory E. Pitoniak to become the Mayor of the City of Taylor, effective January 31, 1997.

"I am honored by this appointment from the City Council and I look forward to serving the citizens of Taylor in a new role," Pitoniak said.

Pitoniak will replace current Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe, who has submitted his resignation, effective January 31, to become Assistant Wayne County Executive for Public Services. "I hope to continue the tremendous improvements and progress that Mayor Priebe has promoted in Taylor over the past 15 years," he added.

Prior to his first election to the Michi-

gan House of Representatives in November of 1988, Pitoniak had served as a Taylor City Councilman from 1981–1988, and he is excited about returning to local government in his hometown. "My college education [a bachelor's degree in urban studies from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Carolina] was intended to prepare me to be a city manager. I now get to put that education to use," he declared. "When combined with my prior experience at the city, county, and state levels, I feel prepared for the challenge ahead of me."

As State Representative, Pitoniak says that he is most proud of his role in helping force property-tax and school-

continued on page 4



Representative Greg Pitoniak

Seniors' New Year's Party Was Great Fun

When approximately 130 local senior citizens gathered at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #9568 on Friday, December 27, to celebrate the new year at the Romulus Senior Center's annual bash, they had a fabulous time – but it wouldn't have been nearly as nice without the help of the following people, whose donation of money, items, and/or time helped to make the event such an enormous success.

VFW Post #9568, under Commander Douglas Harden and Ladies' Auxiliary President Cheryl Blanton, donated the hall, equipment, cleanup crew, lasagne, and several door prizes.

Julie Allison of U.S. Park made a sizable donation on behalf of her company to help with the cost of the party.

Dessert was donated by local senior Margaret Maciejewski and her daughter Bonnie.

Other donations and door prizes came from Crane Funeral Home, Daly's, Family Hair Shop, Dean's Charters and Tours, Family Pharmacy, IGA, Romulus City Drug, Romulus Flowers and Gifts, Romulus House Restaurant, and Sister Act Deli and Catering.

Entertainment (all donated and all great!) was provided by the Romulus Fire Department's Lieutenant John Thiede and firefighters Mike Cullen and Todd Blackburn; Richard Marsh, Community Development Director for the



Jim and Lily Chamberlain – who, as of this month, have been married for 60 years – were among the 130 senior citizens who celebrated the new year at the Romulus Senior Center's annual bash at the local VFW. (photo: Cheryl Blanton)

City of Romulus; and Bob Michniewicz.

And, finally, thanks to the volunteer staff: Carolyn Banko (Deputy Treasurer, City of Romulus), Keith Brothers (Recreation Coordinator, City of Romulus), Debbie Dick (Recreation Director, City of Romulus), Hal Dubisky, Sylvia Dubisky, Gloria Fitzgerald, Scott Hammens (Royce Hotel), Dorothy Lutze, Gayle

Mach (Recreation Department, City of Romulus), Margaret Maciejewski, Shirley Mills, Brian Norman, Gerald Norman, Melissa Norman (Royce Hotel), John Pitel, Jackie Pregler, Erica Rhinehart (Romulus High School), Michelle Slawinski (Royce Hotel), Mary Sneath, Sheila Stewart (Recreation Department, City of Romulus), and Doll Wands. □

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Friends of Cymonne Ask for Your Help

To the citizens of Romulus:

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to assist us in a very worthy cause.

First, let us tell you about a little eight-year-old girl, Cymonne Pyles. Two months ago, she was a healthy third-grade student at Halecreek Elementary School. She began suffering with headaches. After seeing her family physician, it was discovered that she had a very serious problem; a brain tumor had developed. Her parents took her to a hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where 60% to 80% of the tumor was removed, which was later found to be malignant. She is presently at St. Jude's Hospital undergoing further treatment.

The family is in dire need of financial assistance to offset the cost of medical bills not covered by insurance and everyday expenses because her father has not been able to work since this ordeal began. A committee of concerned citizens has been formed to assist this family. Our goal is to raise \$150,000 through various community projects.

If you are a parent or grandparent, we know you can imagine how devastating this must be. We would greatly appreciate any assistance that you can give Cymonne. Please make your check payable to "Friends of Cymonne" and return it to:

Friends of Cymonne
P.O. Box 74476
Romulus, MI 48174

Thank you again for your generous consideration.

Cordially,
William M. Oakley
(Mayor, City of Romulus)
Bill Baum
Ron Hopson
Roxanne Kucharski
Rob McLachlan
Dana Pyles
Sheila Stasak □

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The Romulus News

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The Romulus News is not responsible for articles submitted by writers in whole or in part, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. Since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, misspellings and grammar errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of *The Romulus News*. (All letters must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.)

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

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The Romulus News will furnish classified advertising, free of charge, to Romulus residents for nonbusiness purposes. Businesses must pay an open advertising rate for classifieds.

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Beautiful Christmas Lights

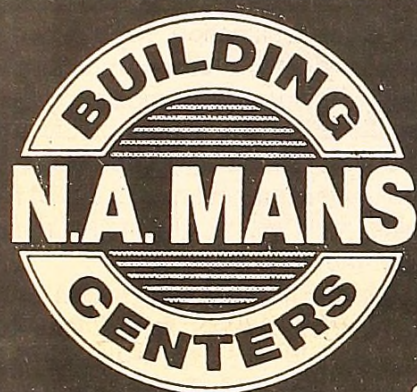
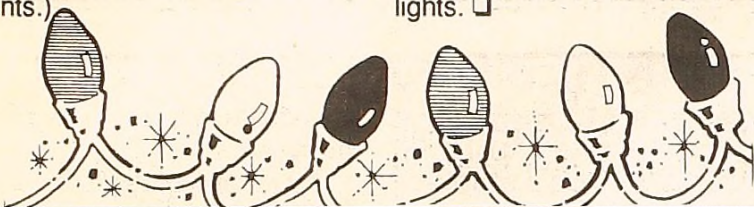
On Thursday, December 19, 1996, the Romulus Recreation Department and 15 eager-eyed local citizens set out and about Romulus in search of beautiful Christmas lights in order to select the winners of the City's holiday decoration contest.

The judging was based on originality, time spent on lights, and overall beauty, with a score of 1 to 10 (10 being the highest) awarded in each category. (In other words, the highest possible score for a house was 30 points.)

Top scorers in the decorating contest were:

- First Place (\$50 winner) – 15628 Harriet (29.50 points);
- Second Place (\$30 winner) – 10251 Miriam (27.75 points); and
- Third Place (\$20 winner) – 36632 Romulus (27.66 points).

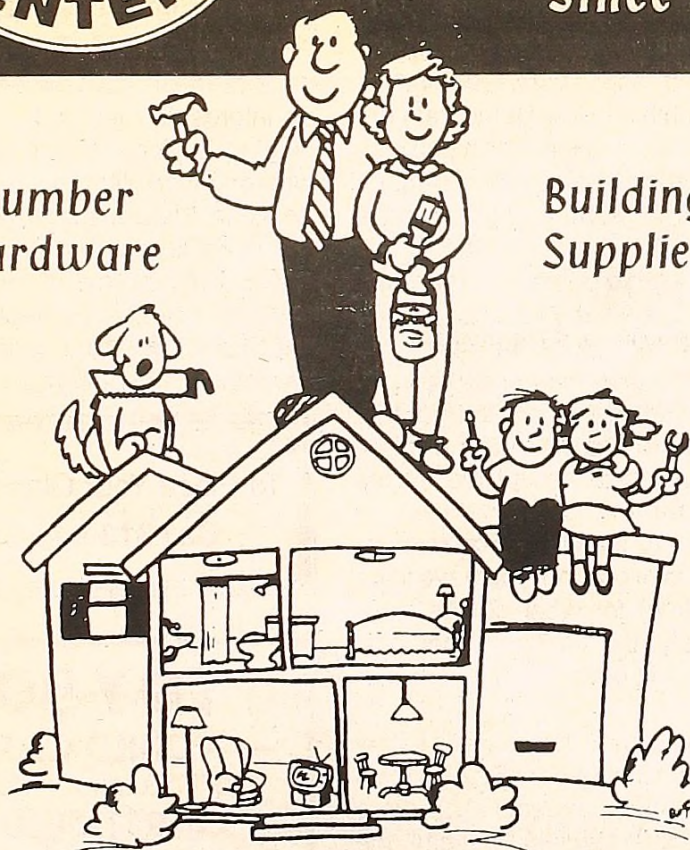
Next year, the Romulus Recreation Department will be looking forward to even more people interested in participating in the contest in order to show off their beautiful Christmas lights. □



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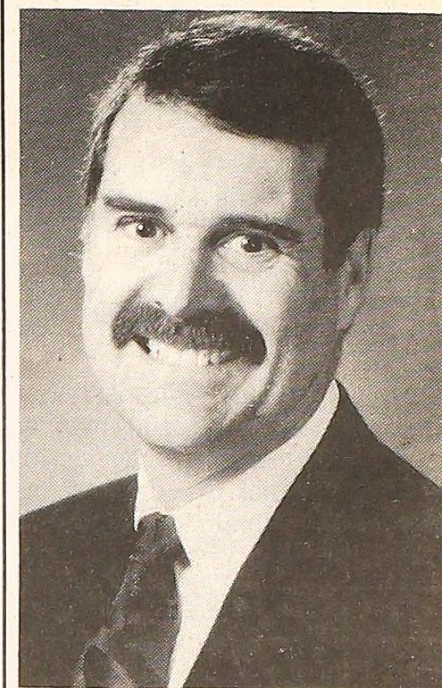
Bennett Introduces Bill To Increase Minimum Wage

Senator Loren Bennett (R-Canton Township) has announced that he will introduce a bill to raise the State's minimum wage from \$3.35 to \$5.15 per hour. The bill – Senate Bill 1 – brings Michigan in line with Federal minimum-wage standards.

Under Bennett's bill, the State minimum wage will be raised from \$3.35 to \$4.75 per hour effective July 1, 1997; soon thereafter, the minimum wage would jump to \$5.15 per hour. The Federal minimum wage was raised to \$4.75 last October. Bennett also said that new employees under the age of 20 will be eligible to receive a training wage of \$4.25 per hour for their first 90 days of employment.

"This measure establishes a decent working wage for young employees and allows them to enter the work force with some earning power," said Bennett, whose bill will be the first to receive floor action in the new legislative session. "Moreover, it brings us into line with Federal minimum-wage standards and provides a uniformity of compensation for those just entering the work force."

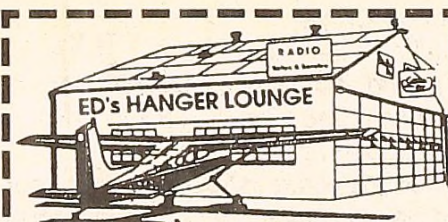
Bennett said his bill also offers a unique pro-family element. SB 1 would provide employees with a special option when working in excess of 40 hours:



Senator Loren Bennett

Employees could choose 1.5 hours of compensatory time-off to spend with their families in lieu of being paid one-and-a-half times their regular hourly rate. "The choice remains with the employee," Bennett explained, "but it's flexibility of having that option that's so important, especially for families in which both parents work."

In summary, Bennett said, "By raising Michigan's minimum wage, we are creating a solid foundation of compensation for first-time employees, while maintaining a manageable payroll for employers around the State. This is a fair and equitable solution for everyone involved, and should keep Michigan's economic momentum moving full speed ahead." □



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Smart Snacking Might Be Key To Resolution Success

By Florine Mark, president and CEO, Weight Watchers International

January is the only month of the year when millions of people resolve to do the same thing: lose weight. One of the keys to losing weight is to eat a healthy, balanced diet—and these days, with all the low-calorie and low-fat products available at the grocery store, it is getting much easier to eat better.

So why aren't people getting thinner? The proof just might be in the pudding!

Even when you have the best intentions and try to eat in a healthy manner, between-meal munching and snacking can be your downfall. Of course, munching on fresh fruits and veggies is one of the best ways to snack. But for some people, when they are looking to munch, they are looking to satisfy more than their hunger. Often, they are looking to satisfy a craving for sugar or salt.

Cocoa Crunch Mix

(makes 8 servings)

- 1/4 cup reduced-calorie tub margarine
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 ounces thin pretzel sticks, coarsely broken
- 1 1/2 ounces wheat squares cereal
- 1 ounce shredded wheat cereal, coarsely broken
- 1 1/2 ounces toasted oat cereal
- 1 1/2 ounces unsalted peanuts, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup raisins

In large saucepan, melt margarine; stir in sugar and cocoa. Add pretzels, wheat squares, shredded wheat, oat cereal, and peanuts; cook, stirring frequently, 2-3 minutes. Stir in raisins; cook 2-3 minutes longer, until mixture is dry. Cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

Each serving provides: 1 Fat; 1/2 Fruit; 1 Bread; 25 Optional Calories.

Per serving: 167 Calories; 4 g. Protein; 5 g. Fat; 27 g. Carbohydrate; 282 mg. Sodium; 0 mg. Cholesterol; 2 g. Dietary Fiber.

Source: *Weight Watchers Complete Cookbook & Program Basics*, 1994.

Honey-Sesame Popcorn

(makes 2 servings)

- 1 tablespoon whipped butter
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 2 teaspoons sesame seeds, toasted
- 4 cups prepared plain popcorn

In small microwavable cup or bowl, combine butter and honey and microwave on high (100%) for 1 minute, until melted. Stir in sesame seeds. In medium mixing bowl, arrange popcorn; pour honey mixture evenly over popcorn and toss to coat.

To satisfy your craving, don't grab for the high-fat chips and chocolates; instead, try making some homemade, healthy snacks. Some of the greatest snack recipes I've found are low in calories and fat. They taste so great, you wouldn't even know that they're good for you!

To spruce up plain popcorn, add honey and sesame seeds to make **Honey-Sesame Popcorn**. And **Cocoa Crunch Mix** is a great after-lunch munchie for a p.m. snack. For a late-night crunch, **Potato Chips** are good to munch.

All of these wonderful munchies can be made in advance and stored in airtight containers. So don't just enjoy these snacks at home; pack them in your lunch, send them to school with your kids, or bring them to picnics and parties. Before you know it, your whole family will be hooked on healthy snacks.

Each serving provides: 1 Bread; 65 Optional Calories.

Per serving: 110 Calories; 2 g. Protein; 5 g. Fat; 16 g. Carbohydrate; 32 mg. Calcium; 30 mg. Sodium; 8 mg. Cholesterol; Dietary Fiber data not available.

Source: *Weight Watchers Meals in Minutes*, 1989.

Potato Chips

(makes 4 servings)

- 1 pound, 4 ounces russet potatoes, pared and sliced 1/8" thick
- 3/4 teaspoon salt

Place potatoes in a bowl and pour ice water to cover; stir in 1/4 teaspoon of the salt and let stand 30 minutes.

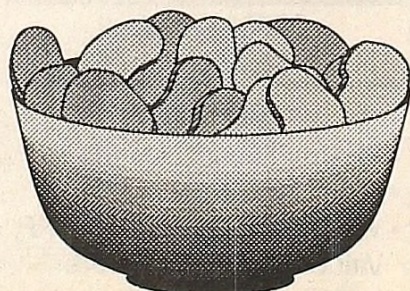
Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray 2 nonstick baking sheets with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.

Drain potatoes, blot dry and place on prepared baking sheets in a single layer. Bake 45 minutes, turning potato slices over frequently during the baking time so that they crisp evenly. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt.

Each serving provides: 1 Bread.

Per serving: 107 Calories; 2 g. Protein; 1 g. Fat; 23 g. Carbohydrate; 442 mg. Sodium; 0 mg. Cholesterol; 2 g. Dietary Fiber.

Source: *Weight Watchers Complete Cookbook & Program Basics*, 1994. □



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PITONIAK RESIGNS FOR MAYOR'S JOB

continued from page 1

finance reform as a member of the "Bi-Partisan Legislative Team," as well as sponsoring legislation that changed environmental laws to require stricter permitting of commercial hazardous disposal wells, and authoring Michigan's current law requiring 50% of restaurant seating to be reserved for nonsmokers.

As a longtime advocate for increased funding for roads and bridges, Pitoniak is disappointed that the issue remains unresolved: "I believe that this could be resolved fairly easily if Governor Engler would provide some leadership to guide the Legislature on the issue, since there is bipartisan support to increase transportation funding."

Although his fellow Democrats understand his resignation—Michigan residents may soon see quite a few members of their legislature begin to leave as the State's "term limits" law forces them to seek other positions—many are concerned because Pitoniak's departure will further reduce the party's already slim majority in the House.

Pitoniak recently confirmed that term limits were a big factor in determining his decision to accept the job as Mayor of Taylor.

"When you know that you're coming to the end of one job, you have to be on the lookout for what comes next. Unfortunately, the timing of that next step may not fit perfectly into your current pace."

As Taylor's mayor, Pitoniak's salary will jump from just under \$52,000 (plus almost \$9,000 for expenses) to more than \$80,000. However, despite the substantial raise, taking the new job does entail some risk, since he will have to stand for election later this year when Taylor's regularly scheduled city elections occur in September (Primary) and November (General).

"Over the next few months, I will be listening to hear what the citizens' concerns and hopes for our community are, and then offer my vision and plan as to how a Pitoniak Administration will re-

spond to them over the next four years," he stated.

Pitoniak regrets that he will no longer be serving the citizens of Romulus after January 31 (which will be the effective date of his resignation, when it is officially tendered). "When redistricting brought Taylor and Romulus together into the 22nd District as of January 1993, I received a very warm welcome from the leadership and citizens of Romulus, and I will miss my many friends there," he said.

Since Pitoniak's resignation is not yet official, Governor John Engler has not set a date for a special election to fill Pitoniak's upcoming vacancy; however, several people have already expressed an interest in running for the seat, including Taylor resident Susan Cislo, who opposed Pitoniak as an independent candidate on the November ballot.

Pitoniak says that he probably won't make a decision about whom he will endorse until after the election has been set and all potential candidates have announced their intentions. □

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Mother Nature's fury can knock out your power temporarily. The following information is provided by Detroit Edison and the Romulus Emergency Management Department to help ensure your safety and minimize inconveniences following a power-outage.

If you lose power or need to report a downed power-line, call Detroit Edison at 1-800-477-4747. They will send a crew to repair the problem and give you an estimated restoration time.

Storm-related/General Power-outage

- If your power goes out, check first for tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses that would indicate that the problem is in your own home or building. If there are none, call Detroit Edison. You can use their automated phone system or talk to a customer representative.
- Turn off or unplug all appliances to prevent an electrical overload when the power comes back on.

Downed Power-lines

- Stay away from downed power-lines or hanging wires and anything that they may be touching, including fences and trees. Assume that any line, even if it's not sparking, is "live" and could result in serious injury or death. Keep children and pets away from the wires. Call Detroit Edison immediately to report the location of the downed wire.
- Never try to move a downed power-line. Wait for Detroit Edison.

Winter Storm Outage

- Turn on faucets slightly to provide a constant drip and prevent pipes from freezing.
- To keep warm, select a small, well-insulated room with a fireplace, wood stove, or kerosene heater. Hang cardboard or blankets over windows and doorways.
- Use only a heater that burns fuel, such as kerosene, and have proper ventilation to avoid a buildup of harmful fumes. Never use a gas range for heating or charcoal for indoor heating or cooking.
- Keep an emergency supply of wood or other fuel handy. For safety, always store the fuel in a dry place away from your home.

Using Portable Generators

- Before using backup generators, make sure that the electric circuits are disconnected from Detroit Edison lines by turning all main switches or circuit breakers to the "off" position.

Low Voltage

- Storms also cause low voltage. If you notice dim lights, a smaller-than-usual television picture, or slow-running appliance motors, turn off electronic equipment and motor-driven appliances to protect them from damage. Report the problem to Detroit Edison.

Emergency Kit

- Make sure you have a flashlight or battery-operated lantern for lighting, as well as a first-aid kit and a fire extinguisher. Check all batteries regularly.

Preserving Your Food

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to reduce food spoilage. A closed refrigerator will stay cold for 24 hours. Kept closed, a well-filled freezer will preserve food for two to three days.
- Meat, poultry, and fish may be refrozen if their containers have ice crystals inside them. If there are no ice crystals, but the contents smell fresh, cook them immediately. Refreeze them only after they have been cooked completely.
- Fruits, vegetables, and baked goods may be refrozen.
- If using dry ice to preserve goods, wear gloves. Place a piece of cardboard between the dry ice and your food.

Before A Flood . . .

- Long before flood conditions threaten your area, have your basement circuits wired or rewired so that all electrical outlets are placed above the anticipated flood level.
- In the event of a flood warning, disconnect electric power to all basement outlets, appliances, extension cords, and equipment, including the furnace.
- If possible, raise all appliances above the anticipated water level.

During A Flood . . .

- Never step into a flooded basement or other areas if water is in contact with outlets or any electrically operated appliance that is energized, such as a washer, dryer, freezer, furnace blower, dehumidifier, lamp, or cord. You could be electrocuted, even if wearing rubber boots.
- Don't attempt to remove a fuse or turn off a circuit breaker while standing in water or on a damp floor. If the electricity to your basement must be disconnected, hire a licensed electrician or call Detroit Edison. Detroit Edison will send someone to disconnect and reconnect the electricity to your home, free of charge.

After A Flood . . .

- When water has receded, don't attempt to operate or determine the condition of appliances or other equipment that has been submerged. You could receive an electrical shock.
- Have a qualified electrician determine the condition of your basement's electrical wiring, an appliance repair company service your appliances, and a furnace repair service check and restart your furnace. □



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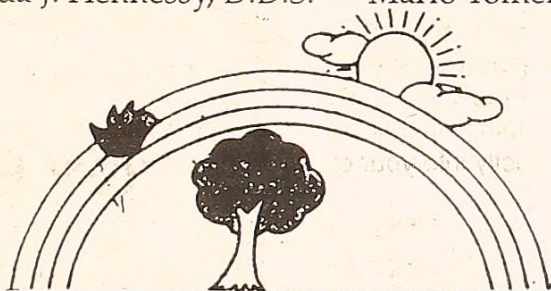
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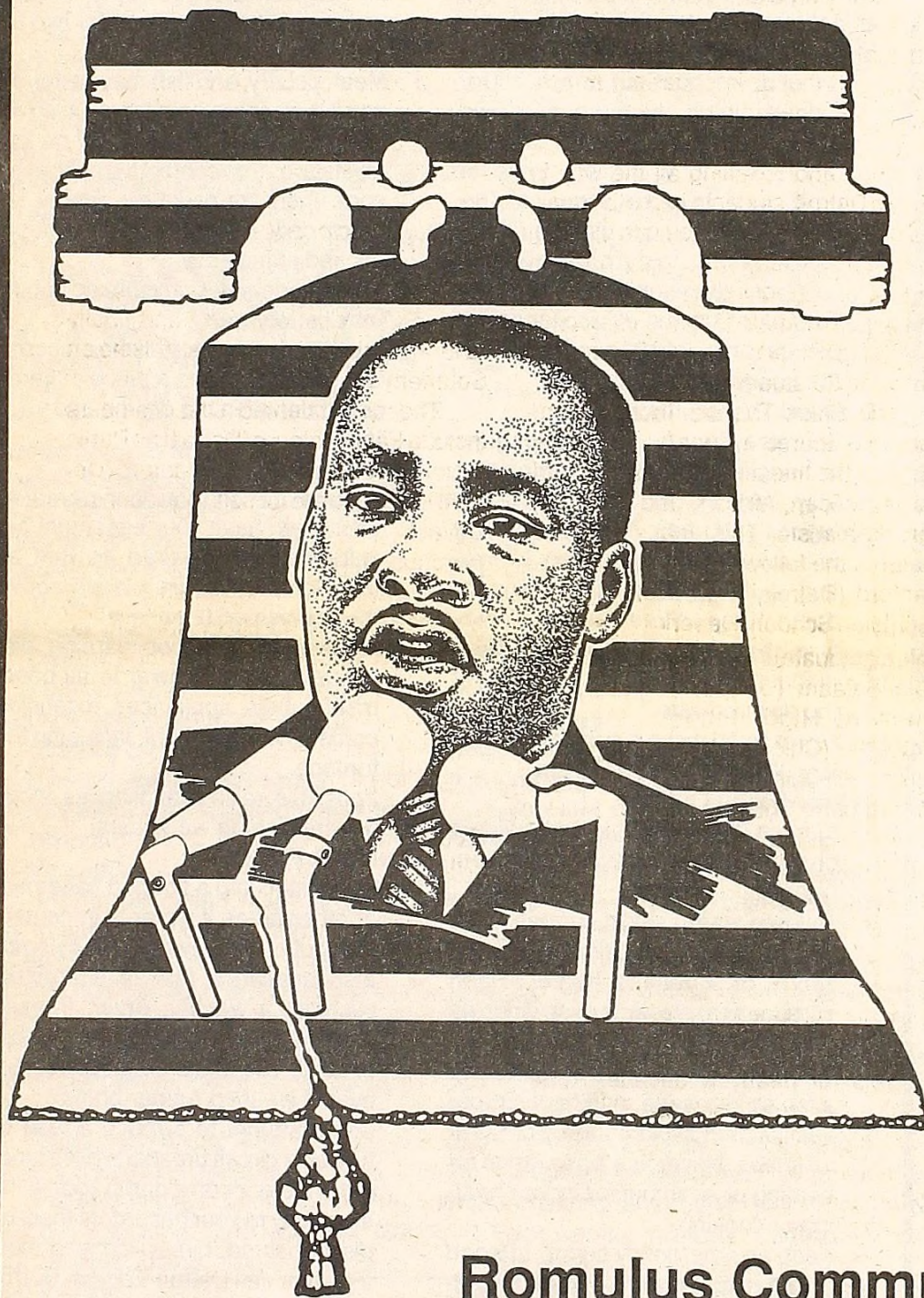
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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20, 1997



As a nation, we've come a long way in recognizing the dignity and civil rights of each and every individual.

We owe that progress in large part to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His wisdom, vision, and faith touched all our lives, and continue to do so in countless ways.

But there is still much progress to be made before the dream is fully realized.

As we celebrate his birth, we renew our pledge to work toward that goal.

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Romulus Community Schools
Board of Education and Staff

PRIDE • PROGRESS • EDUCATION
HE HAD A DREAM

"Your Children Are Our Greatest Concern"

Community Calendar

- **Coming Up at the Macomb Center** – Upcoming programs at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts (located on the Macomb Community College campus, one mile east of Lakeside Mall at Hall/M-59 and Garfield roads in Clinton Township) include: "Magic and Illusion by Blackstone" (Saturday, January 11, at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$26 for adults/\$24 for students and senior citizens), "Moscow Festival Ballet" ("Paquita" and "Carmen" on Thursday, January 16, at 8 p.m., and "Giselle" on Friday, January 17, at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$25 for adults/\$23 for students and senior citizens), and "Sleeping Beauty on Ice" (Thursday, January 30, at 8 p.m., and Friday, January 31, at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$33 for golden circle/\$29 for adults/\$26 for students and senior citizens). For ticket information, call the Macomb Center box office (810-286-2222) or Ticketmaster (810-645-6666).
- **HCT Presents Vanities** – The Huron Civic Theatre (located at 32044 Huron River Drive in New Boston) will present *Vanities* – a Second Stage Production, directed by Dawn Daniels, of the bitter-sweet comedy by Jack Heifner – during the weekends of January 17–19 and January 24–26. Call the HCT Box Office: 782-5380.
- **"How To Talk So Kids Will Listen"** – Beginning January 20 at 7 p.m. (and continuing on February 3, February 10, February 17, and February 24), Community United Methodist Church (located at 11160 Olive, Romulus) will host a series of parenting sessions featuring the video *How To Talk So Kids Will Listen*, with discussion led by Tracy Colangelo, a certified family counselor. Cost is \$5 per family per session, or \$20 per family for all five sessions if paid in advance. For more information, or to register, please call the Church office (941-0736) from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
- **Help for Pregnant and Parenting Teens** – The Young Mothers Assistance Program (Y-MAP) offers pregnant and parenting teens help with community-resource referrals, monthly support groups, personal counseling, and more. For information, call 313-513-7598.
- **Romulus Little League Meetings** – The Romulus Little League Board of Directors invites the public to attend its regular meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (next meeting: February 5) at the Romulus Recreation Department (36515 Bibbins).
- **Pumpkin Festival Committee Needs You!** – The Romulus Pumpkin Festival Committee is working to host the first annual Pumpkin Festival in September. The Committee's meetings are held in the Romulus City Hall Community Room (located in the lower level) at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. (Next meeting: January 16.) For information, call Susan Watts at 941-0476.
- **BHGC Feeds the Hungry** – The Beverly House of God Church (34156 Beverly Road, Romulus) – with its motto of "Tell them that you love them; show them that you care; reach beyond the church" – offers meals to those in need each Monday and Wednesday (except holidays) from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Dr. Lovell Wooden, Senior Pastor, at 729-6440.
- **Donations Sought** – American Indian Services, a nonprofit organization, is in need of donations year-round. Donations of nonperishable food, toys (can be used, but must be clean and in good condition), and other items such as clothes and blankets (again, need not be new), soap, and paper products will be gratefully accepted, as will donations of furniture and appliances (need not be new, but should be in good working order) and cash gifts (make checks payable to "American Indian Services"). Drop-offs may be made at The Outpost (located at 18855 Wahrman Road) any day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To place information in the Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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Offerings in Black Theater

Script-writing Workshop

As Wayne State University's Black Theatre Touring Company begins its 1997 tour, area students will have a unique opportunity to create a script with the actors in "Mythmakers." Dates are available for this performance/workshop on Tuesday mornings through April, and can be booked through the Black Theatre Program office.

The Mythmakers' interactive format helps students become aware of the fact that each of them, as he or she leaves childhood, is preparing to embark on what mythology calls the Hero's Quest. Beginning in ancient mythological Africa and reaching all the way to today's Detroit, students *name* the qualities needed to undertake such a quest, *rehearse* the tests one may have to endure, and *identify* the sources of help that assist them. Due to the interactive focus of this year's tour, participants are limited to 50 students.

The Black Theatre Touring Company has toured 14 years, presenting some of the finest plays written by African-American, African, and West African dramatists. This year's company features the following students: Pasha Sanford (Detroit, a graduate of Cass Tech High School); Dederick Oliver (Detroit, a graduate of Redford High School); Fala Salaam (Detroit, a graduate of Mumford High School); Mei-Ling McWorter (Chicago, a graduate of University of Chicago High School and Swarthmore College); Johari McRae (Detroit, a graduate of Afton High School in St. Louis); Rashede Jamal (Detroit, a graduate of Western High School). Detroit drummer Issa Abramaleem assists with a range of percussion instruments. The company is led by graduate student Mary Pratt Cooney, who has worked in the Detroit Public Schools for nearly a decade. Addell Austin Anderson directs the Black Theatre Program.

For more information or to book Mythmakers, call Mary Pratt Cooney at 313-577-7906.

Purlie Victorious

Ossie Davis' popular comedy, *Purlie Victorious*, plays at the Bonstelle Theatre January 17-19 and 24-26. A satire in three acts, the unique play explores the hilarious aspects of race relations in the "cotton pickin' South."

The play opens with Purlie, a self-appointed Messiah of the black race, coming back home to Georgia to help his people. Purlie's master plan is to acquire Big Bethel, an old barn, and reconstruct it into a symbol of freedom as an integrated church.

To accomplish his goal, Purlie must come up with \$500. He schemes to acquire an inheritance left to the family servants but held in trust with Ol' Cap'n

Cotchipee, the plantation owner. Purlie attempts to put one over on the plantation owner with the help of the black community. Surprisingly, Purlie and the black community gain Big Bethel through the help of Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee's son.

Ossie Davis' dream of becoming a writer came true in 1961 when *Purlie Victorious* opened on Broadway. His deep commitment to African-American history and cultural traditions never far behind, Davis has touched generations as a writer, actor, and director. Though he has earned numerous awards and accolades in stage, television, and film, *Purlie Victorious* remains to this day his greatest contribution to black theatre.

Purlie Victorious has been dubbed by the critics as "a bucketful of bristling laughs," "a farcical fantasy," "a cornpone-and-chitlins comedy," and finally "a funny satire filled with every cliché on Southern life."

The nine talented cast members include Falah Salaam (Detroit) as Purlie Victorious Judson, Pasha Stanford (Detroit) as Luttie Belle Gussie Mae Jenkins, Oliver C. Irvin-Pookrum (Detroit) as Giltlow Judson, Tiffany Michelle Thompson (Detroit) as Idella Landy, Johari Vanessa McRae (Detroit) as Missy Judson, Ed Cosgriff (Detroit) as the Sheriff, Dean Cechvala (Clinton Township) as the Deputy, Joel Mitchell (Fraser) as Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee, and Thom Mathis (Gibraltar) as Charlie Cotchipee.

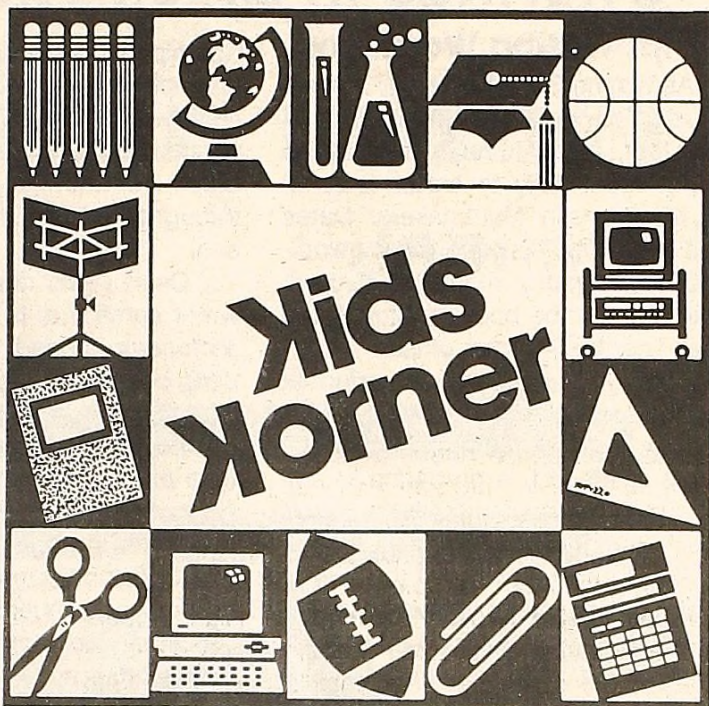
Purlie Victorious will be directed by Addell Austin Anderson, with sets by Chadwyn Knutson, lights by Donald Robert Fox, and costumes by Lateefah Dixon. Oliver C. Irvin-Pookrum is the assistant director.

Purlie Victorious runs January 17-19 and 24-26. Show days and times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets can be ordered by calling the box office at (313) 577-2960 between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Ticket prices range from \$7.50 to \$9.50, with group discounts available. □

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+ tax and deposit		+ tax and deposit	



January jokes

HERE are a few jokes to share with your friends.

When is a clock on the stairs dangerous?

When it runs down and strikes one.

Why are dogs like trees?

They both have barks.

How do you keep a fool in suspense?

I'll tell you next week.

Why is the letter "E" lazy?

Because it's always in bed.

What makes a chess player happy?

Taking a knight off.

Nurse: "There's a man outside with a wooden leg called Smith."

Doctor: "What's the name of his other leg?"

Patient: "My hair is coming out. What can you give me to keep it in?"

Doctor: "A paper bag."

What did the pony say when it coughed?

"Excuse me, I'm a little horse."

What did the pencil say to the eraser?

Take me to your ruler.

Why don't chickens have trunks?

Because they don't go swimming.

What 7-letter name has only three letters?

Barbara.

What would happen if you swallowed your knife and fork?

You would have to eat with your hands.

Mother: "Why did you put this frog in your sister's bed?"

Little Boy: "Because I couldn't find a mouse."

What is the difference between a hungry man and a greedy man?

One longs to eat and the other eats too long.

What starts with a "T," ends with a "T" and is full of "T's"?

A teapot.

What is long and thin and says Hith, Hith?

A snake with a lisp.

Why did the naughty boy put ice cubes in his aunt's bed?

Because he wanted to make antifreeze.

Why is the letter "T" like an island?

Because it comes in the middle of water.

When Adam met Eve for the first time, what three words, which read the same backwards and forwards, did he say?

"Madam, I'm Adam."

Tom: "Mom, may I go out and play?"

Mom: "What! With those torn jeans?"

Tom: "No. With my friends down the road."

Why should you stay calm when you meet a cannibal?

You don't want to get into a stew.

I can run but I can't walk. What am I?

Water.

JOIN THE WORDS

JOIN THE WORDS ON THE LEFT TO THOSE ON THE RIGHT TO MAKE TEN LARGER WORDS.

UNDER
FOR
CAR
LIGHT
LADY
NECK
DRAW
POLICE
CROSS
NOTE

HOUSE
WORD
LACE
BRIDGE
WARD
MAN
STAND
BOOK
ROT
BIRD

ANSWERS:-
UNDERSTAND, FORWARD, CARROT, Lighthouse,
LADYBIRD, NECKLACE, DRAWBRIDGE, POLICEMAN,
CROSSWORD, NOTEBOOK.

K1920005

DID YOU KNOW?

by AL

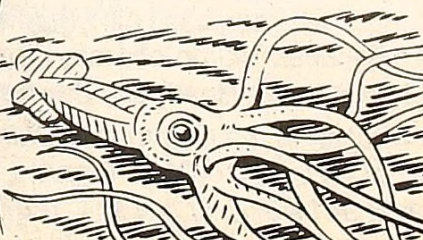
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THE AARDVARK IS AN ANTEATER THAT LIVES ONLY IN AFRICA. ITS NAME IS AFRIKAANS AND MEANS "EARTH-PIG." IT HAS STRONG CLAWS AND ITS TONGUE CAN PROJECT AS FAR AS 18 INCHES!

SOAP HAS BEEN USED FOR AT LEAST 2,700 YEARS. THE PHOENICIANS USED ANIMAL FATS AND WOOD ASH TO MAKE SOAP THAT CLEANED GREASY THINGS EFFECTIVELY. THE ALKALI IN THE WOOD ASH NEUTRALIZES THE ACID IN THE ANIMAL FAT. THIS PRINCIPLE IS STILL USED IN SOAP-MAKING TODAY.



IN 1878, OFF THE EAST COAST OF CANADA, A GIANT SQUID, MEASURING 55 FEET IN LENGTH, WAS WASHED UP ON SHORE. ITS HEAD AND BODY WERE 20 FEET LONG, MAKING IT THE LARGEST SQUID EVER KNOWN.



K1920004

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

Recreation Programs

Thanks to Debbie Dick, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Keith Brothers, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation Programs" column. For more information about these or other offerings, stop in at the Recreation Department Office, 36515 Bibbins, or call 942-6852.

* * *

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Department during its regular hours (weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

McDonald's NBA Two-ball Tourney

The Romulus Recreation Department is hosting the free McDonald's NBA two-ball tournament on Saturday, January 18, at Wick Elementary School. Competition will be divided into boys and girls groups based on each participant's age as of January 1, 1997: ages nine to 11 (1 p.m.), ages 12 to 14 (2 p.m.), and ages 15 to 17 (3 p.m.). Nonmembers of the girls' or boys' varsity basketball teams are eligible to participate in the tournament.

Deadline for registration is Friday, January 17. Birth certificates must be shown at the time of registration.

Winners will advance to participate in the District competition to be held the first of February in Saline.

Gymnastics

The winter session of gymnastics classes offered by the Recreation Department began this week, and classes will continue each Thursday evening at the High School for preschoolers to advanced students. Cost is \$35 for residents; \$40 for nonresidents.

Dance

The winter session's eight-week dance program—which begins January 13—will be held Mondays at Romulus High School according to the following schedule:

- ballet (5 to 6 p.m.),
 - preschool dance (6 to 7 p.m.), and
 - adult dance & exercise (7 to 8 p.m.).
- (Other dance classes in jazz and tap may be added if enough interest is displayed; these classes would be held on Tuesdays.) Cost is \$25 for residents; \$30 for nonresidents.

GARAGE SALE

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Sat. & Sun., Jan. 18 & 19, 9 to 5
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ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

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at 5-Points
Romulus, MI 48174

— 941-1640 —

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Senior Profile: Mary Mills

Editor's note: This is the eleventh and twelfth in a series of biographies on local senior citizens written by Romulus High School teacher Cathy Uhring's

1995-1996 freshman English students, and published in Open Up the Doors of the Past. Watch for more biographies in future issues of "the little paper."

"Mary Always Wanted To Be a Teacher"

By Sarah Zilka, April DeBus, and Sarah Weinschenk

April, Sarah and I were nervous about going to the Senior Tower because we did not know if we would act properly around the Seniors. We also wondered if they would even like us.

Mary is a nice, quiet person. She hardly ever strays from the point she is trying to explain. She has a soft voice and only speaks when spoken to. She is short and stout, and has short, curly gray hair. When we look at her face it tells us that she is shy and quiet, but can be stern.

When we asked Mary about her family, she said that she was always daddy's little girl. Even though she was the oldest of ten brothers and two sisters, her father always found the time for her, from the day she was born on August 26, 1918 in Romulus, Michigan. Mary has lived in Romulus all of her life. Mary and her family are Polish. When she was born, her parents were around the age of thirty-five. She got along with them very well, so when she got pressured it was only to do her chores or keep at her studies.

When Mary was young, she attended a small school called Hall School with about fifty boys and girls. Mostly all of them from her neighborhood with whom she played baseball and jacks.

Around the age of twenty, Mary met her future husband at the roller rink in Romulus. She was married when she was twenty-one years of age. They did not have a big wedding. We asked her what she thought the ingredients to a good marriage were, she said making all of the decisions (50/50) among each other. She has three children and was twenty-three when she had her first child.

When asked what was the major historical event in her life, she said World War II. When talking about his-



Mary Mills

tory, Mary also pointed out that John F. Kennedy was her favorite president because she thought he was interesting and a good speaker.

The most important invention in Mary's life is the television. Before TV she would go to the movies with friends and listen to the radio. Mary thinks television today is bad because of the information it gives.

The work phase in Mary's life included earning a living by working in factories and little machine shops. She worked in the bomber plant in Willow Run during World War II and built B-24 bomber planes. Mary retired at the age of sixty-two. She cannot work any more because of arthritis in her hands.

When we talked to Mary about her goals, she told us she always wanted to be a teacher, but never pursued that profession. She always wanted to travel, but never did. Although Mary did not accomplish all of her goals, she still had a successful life. As she now looked back on life, there would be nothing done different.

As advice she gives, "Study hard. There are a lot of opportunities out there." □

"She Was Daddy's Girl"

By Shannon Guarino, Megan Williams, and Rosland Westbrook

Quiet, nice, soft-spoken and caring; do you know any one of the sorts? Well, if you have met Mrs. Mills, you do. Through our meeting with Mrs. Mills, we were able to learn about her life as well as her learning about ours.

On August 26, 1918 in the city of Romulus, a suburb of Detroit, Mary Mills was born. She has ten brothers and two sisters. When she was born, her parents were both thirty-five years old.

Mary said that when she was growing up she had a very good relationship with her parents; she was daddy's girl. During her childhood she played baseball and jacks. Like every other kid, she had chores. For her chore she had to clean the oil lamps and make sure they worked correctly. She continued to do this chore until her parents installed electricity.

One of the hardships she had to endure while growing up was going to the bathroom outside. She said that in the winter it was very cold, and she did not like going out there.

For Mary's education, she went to Hall School up until the eighth grade. At this one room school house there were only fifty students. During school she enjoyed studying history, but she did not enjoy mathematics. While in school, Mrs. Mills had one remarkable teacher, her name was Mrs. Golm. The most remarkable thing she remembers about school is how teachers had to get there early to start a fire for the children so the school house would be warm when they arrived. Her advice to students is to study hard to get good grades.

Like many people Mary had a best friend. Mary's best friend's name is Elaine. While they were growing up together Elaine's nickname was Blondie. She received this nickname because she had blonde hair. Now Elaine lives up north and Mary keeps in touch with her through the mail.

When Mary was a teen, she thought about many things. During that time she found she had certain views about divorce, teen pregnancy, spousal abuse and peer pressure. She felt divorce was a terrible thing that happens and most people try to avoid it. She also felt teen pregnancy was a shame. During those days the girls would try to hide it as much as possible. When Mary was a teen, spousal abuse was something she never thought about because it didn't happen much, and peer pressure was not a phenomena in those days.

During Mary's teenage years she went roller skating. During her roller skating fun she met her husband, James. Throughout the courtship, they often walked to the roller-rink and skated. She said that the walk was long but worth it.

When Mary married, she was twenty-one. Although her wedding was not big, it was happy and peaceful. The saddest part of her wedding day was that her brother died. During her marriage the hardest part was when her husband was laid off. They had to struggle to survive. The best thing about the marriage was the children at Christmastime. Mary had three children. They all became teachers. Her oldest child is an Assistant Principal at Romulus Middle School. When her children were growing up, they didn't give her any problems that she vividly remembers. She said the biggest problem was when they were sick. She wanted her children to carry on the Polish traditions and teach them to their children. She thinks that her children had more than she did when they were growing up. Mary's advice to parents of today is not to give in to their children so much. She also feels mothers should stay home to take care of their children and raise them right.

Before Mary had her children, she worked. Her jobs consisted of babysitting, working in a factory, and working at a little airport nearby called Willow Run. She had the job at Willow Run for one year. When she was in her youth, Mary's father was a butcher. He owned a store in which he sold the butchered cattle. After school Mary came home and worked in the store while her father butchered the cattle.

When asked what was the major historical event during her life, Mary said it was when Pearl Harbor was hit by Japan. Although it did not affect her, she still felt sorry for the people. Mary also added that her favorite president was John F. Kennedy. She feels he was a very smart man.

When questioned about technology, Mary replied that she feels the television and the telephone were the most important inventions in her life. Before the television came along, she listened to the radio. Mary's favorite car was a Ford, only because her husband could fix it. Some hardships she had to face before technology stepped in was the fact they had an outhouse and no running water. She feels that with these inventions she had an easier life.

Now in Mary's spare time she belongs to a senior club in Romulus. At the club they have dinners, rummage sales and pot luck dinners. Sometimes the club has trips to go up North on a bus to go sight seeing. She said that even though she did not go she heard it was fun. She said she has a lot of fun and enjoys the time she spends over there.

We would like to end this biography by saying, "Thank-you for telling your life to three teenagers you didn't know." We enjoyed your information and your stories. □

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower, and to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (Note: For further information about events at the Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 942-6852.)

Happy Birthday!

Best wishes for a wonderful birthday to those of my Tower neighbors born in January: Gina Broadnax, Johanna Laskey, Elmer Miller, Fern Mostoller, Mildred Qualls, Danny Rushlow (staff), and Evelyn Sales.

Closed for the Holiday

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center will be closed in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 20.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 942-6852.

- **Casino Niagara**— Those who like to flirt with Lady Luck won't want to miss this trip to the Casino Niagara, located in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The \$101 cost of this two-day/one-night trip (based on double-occupancy rates), which departs February 16, includes round-trip motor-coach transportation; one night's accommodation at the Skyline Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario; one dinner; and one breakfast.
- **Day Trips** — Among several "day trips" that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center are one to a "Polish Party," complete with old-fashioned, homemade Polish goodies and great live music (Wednesday, January 29; \$35); and one to Toledo for an "Irish Shamrock" special with Hal Roach, the King of Blarney, whose outrageously funny collection of stories depicting the great humor of his own people has captivated audiences all over the world (Thursday, March 6; \$48). Sign up *soon* if interested.

Walking Club

Local seniors are invited to meet at the Center every Wednesday at 9 a.m. to ride the popular "senior van" over to Wayne County Community College's Haggerty Road campus for some safe, indoor walking (at your own pace) during the winter months.

There is no charge to participate in this program.

Sabrina at the Center

The Romulus Senior Center will be showing *Sabrina* (1954 version) — starring Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, and William Holden — on Friday, January 24, at 2 p.m. Admission (which includes refreshments) will be \$1.

Potluck

It might be the middle of winter, but the forecast for January 31 calls for a heat wave at the Romulus Senior Center. That's because the theme of this month's potluck is "south of the border" — and chili (not too spicy) will be the main dish. As always, bring a dish and bring a friend.

Haircuts

Those planning to drop in at the Center for a haircut will want to remember that this month's service has been set for January 21 beginning at 4 p.m. The regular schedule will resume in February.

Toning To Tape

The Romulus Senior Center invites those who are interested in looking and feeling better to make use of the Richard Simmons "Silver Foxes" exercise video, available for play at the Center every weekday from 9 to 9:45 a.m., and during some afternoons as well. The Center recommends that all participants wear comfortable clothing, and urges anyone unused to physical exertion to consult a physician before beginning.

Free Blood-pressure Readings

Community Emergency Medical Service conducts its free blood-pressure checks at the Center on the fourth Monday of every month at 1 p.m. Next scheduled date: January 27.

Weekly Programs

The Romulus Senior Center has a full schedule of weekly programs for senior citizens' enjoyment. Come in on your own or bring a friend for ceramics (Mondays at 1 and 6 p.m.); Club #1 meetings (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.); euchre (Tuesdays at 1 p.m.); bingo (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.); needlework/crafts (Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.); and pinochle (Thursdays at 1 p.m.).

Hot Lunch

For just \$1.50, Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) can enjoy a hot lunch at the Center any weekday at 11:30 a.m. Call the Romulus Senior Center at least 24 hours in advance to make a reservation.

Home delivery of hot meals is also available for qualified individuals. To obtain further information about the "Meals on Wheels," program, please call 1-800-851-1454. □

Romulus Senior Profile: Joseph and Joan Scibilia

By Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus

This issue's senior spotlight is on Joseph "Joe" and Giovanna "Joan" (Mochelli) Scibilia. The Scibilia and Mochelli families had been friends for some time, even though Joe and Joan had never met.

Eventually, they were introduced while the two families were visiting. It was love at first sight for Joan, even though she was only 16 years old at the time. Joe, also 16, was not so impressed with Joan. Joe had always said that he would not become involved with an Italian girl because he thought they were too loud and argued too much.

Joe and Joan did become friends and, when Joe left for the Army, they wrote to each other almost every day. Joan's feelings grew with each letter she wrote, and so did Joe's feelings. Then, on a furlough, Joe asked Joan out on what would be their first date, only to have Joan's family block their plans with an emphatic "NO DATING!"

Joe didn't know what to do or where to turn. He just knew that he wanted to be with Joan and spend the rest of his life with her. So Joe, his parents, and his sister paid a visit to the Mochelli family. At that time, Joe and his family asked for Joan's hand in marriage. Even though permission was granted for their marriage, they could only date with a chaperon present.

Then on November 9, 1946, at the age of 25, Joe and Joan became Mr. and Mrs. Scibilia, after a two-year engagement.

Joe was a mechanic for Ford Motor Company, while Joan raised their three fine boys. Joan recalls, "It wasn't easy, but with God's help we



Joan and Joe Scibilia

both made it." Their union has been blessed with their three boys, eight wonderful grandchildren, and one very precious great-granddaughter.

Joe and Joan will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. You can still see the love and devotion they share. I asked Joan if she had any advice for young people wanting to get married today. She replied, "Just make sure you love each other and that God is a part of your life. You need both to make a marriage work. Life and marriage isn't easy."

I asked Joe if being married so long was hard or easy? He didn't answer right away. Then Joe looked at me, gave a little grin, and said very firmly, "I can't say being married to Joan has been hard or easy; it has been good. I love her."

Joan stays active with bowling, different events at the Center, her family, and church. Joe volunteers about three hours daily (nearly 1,000 hours yearly) at the Center for the hot meals program. Both are great people — friendly, warm, and caring. I, as well as many others, are proud to call them friends. They had a unique beginning, wonderful life, and deserve only the best. □

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